

GRAPEVINE



OFFICE HOURS:

W/TH 9:00-2:00

Parish Administrator

Office Phone and Fax:

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Reverend Joseph Wilkes

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Senior Warden

Janet Ratcliffe

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E-mail: janetratcliffe@comcast.net

Junior Warden

Laura Walta

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Clerk of the Vestry

Molly Ratcliffe

603-860-4331

Vestry Members

Beverly Brown, Paula Campbell,
Val Carey, Anne Duffy,
Betty MacKay, Matt McKeon,
Janet Ratcliffe, Molly Ratcliffe,
Beth Regan, Laura Walta, and
Joseph Wilkes

Pledge Clerk

Elaine Morissette

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Computer/Web

Huib Walta

webmaster@standrewsmethuen.org

Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Joe or Janet at any time at the above numbers with pastoral emergencies. Be sure to inform them if you or anyone you know in the parish is ill and/or in the hospital.

GREETINGS FROM REV. JOE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Epiphany is our celebration of the three magi, or wise men, arriving after a long and hazardous journey to meet Baby Jesus. They came to see the wondrous miracle of God Incarnate coming to do a new thing: saving the world and all faithful people in it from the bondage of sin and death by experiencing life as we live it, and taking all its troubles and tribulations away from us and onto Himself. They came bearing many gifts, and they offered their worship and praise of God for this amazing change in how He would henceforth relate to all people. But maybe they came for an additional reason. Maybe they had long searched for God in their personal lives for whatever each needed from Him, and they would now go any distance and bear any hardship once they knew from the star where to look. In meeting Baby Jesus, maybe they were able to unburden themselves of a lot more than the gifts they brought, and find joy in their lives in many ways personally important to them. They needed God, and they found Him. Their journey was hard but worth it.



There are times when each of us feels like we need God, and we go searching for Him. But through our baptism we receive God the Holy Spirit within us. So God is always there. Unlike the magi, we don't have to search for Him. God, being present right in our lives, tries to make it easy for us to feel great comfort that we need never feel alone. But it can be hard to feel the truth of this, given all that our world throws at us. Even when we think God is there, it's often so hard to let go of the burdens we carry, as if we are somehow ethically bound to see them through on our own. Prayer is a powerful way to help us keep faith in God, who through the Incarnation in Bethlehem so long ago made a promise to be

faithful to us, stand with us, love us, relieve us, and save us. God loves us, and invites us to be confident in His presence and power, and in His desire that we give over to Him our needs and cares.

The story of the magi is a beautiful one. But please join me in prayer this Epiphany season that God will guide each of us to our own personal epiphany that whatever journey in life we are on, it needn't be to find God, because He is already with us every step of the way. And that it can be a lot easier if we ask for the help He so wants to give.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,
Rev. Joe

SENIOR WARDEN MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy New Year to my St. Andrew's family and friends!

Sometimes my inspiration for these Grapevine articles

comes from the most unexpected places. It is with a tip of the hat to Rev. John Tampa of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines, NC that I submit this piece. This year, as

some of you know, Robert and I spent Christmas in NC with my dad and on Christmas day we worshipped at Emmanuel. Rev. Tampa commented during his ser-

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR WARDEN (CON'T)



Who has just celebrated the 7th anniversary of his ordination.

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Ephesians 4:11-12

mon that God does not want us to be "passive bystanders." I've thought about that phrase a lot in the intervening days and how it applies to our life here at St. Andrew's and in particular our upcoming annual meeting and parish elections. It is in that light that I'd like to paraphrase the anecdote that Rev. Tampa shared during his sermon. Rev. Tampa went to Yankee Stadium as an 11 year old boy with his dad to see his boyhood heroes, Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle. During that game, Hector

Lopez, who Tampa wasn't a fan of, came to the plate, blessed himself with the sign of the cross, stepped into the batter's box and took strike one. He blessed himself again and promptly took strike two. He stepped out, took a few practice swings, stepped back in and quickly took a called third strike. Lopez grabbed his glove, shuffled off to the outfield, shaking his head and looking skyward as if God had let him down. The then 11 year old Rev. Tampa summed up Lopez's at bat to his dad by saying "I think God just wanted him to

swing the bat." Pretty deep theology for an 11 year old boy, but something that could serve us well at St. Andrew's as we embark on a new year and begin preparations for our annual meeting. Are you a "passive bystander" here at St. Andrew's? If you think you are, maybe it is your time to swing the bat.

Peace,
Janet

MESSAGE FROM THE JR. WARDEN

If you have been in the church during advent, you have seen just how pretty and festive the sanctuary has looked. Many thanks to those that stayed after the services to decorate on Advent 1, December 1st. And thanks to the efforts of Paul Schermerhorn, our sexton, the pews and floors are shiny and bright for the Christmas services. We try to keep

the parking lots and walkways clear of snow all winter, so don't be afraid to come out this winter! A generous supporter keeps the snow blower in good shape, and Paul is out in the early morning to put down sand and salt. Winter tends to be a season when we hunker down in the face of nor'easters, so there aren't a lot of big plans in the next couple of

months. But sitting in front of the fireplace, I am reminded of all of those who participate in the life of St. Andrew's, and all of those who keep this a community. It makes me ever so thankful that I belong to such a community and I want to tell you how much I appreciate your help!

In His service,
Laura Walta

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2014

Saint Andrew's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2014.

The Election of the following:

- Clerk of the Annual Meeting
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Two Vestry positions available to serve 3-year term
- Delegates to the Convention for the Episcopal Diocese of MA

Delegates to Deanery:

- Greater Lawrence Council of Churches
- Parish Historian

Other Business will include:

- The receipt of annual reports from all Parish organizations
- The receipt of annual financial reports

- A report on the adopted 2014 budget
- Any other business as may properly be brought before the Congregation for its consideration

Your participation is crucial to our success.

First, you'll likely remember from previous years that we need a quorum in order to proceed. That means we need parishioners to be present and sign in. We can't even get the meeting started if we don't have people willing to do that.

Secondly, Vestry members, your representatives to the board that oversee the business of our church, are elected at this meeting. As of this writing, we have a number of positions that will need to be filled, including Junior Warden, two three-year seats on the Vestry, parish historian, delegates to the convention and representatives to Communities Together.

If you'd like the job descriptions for any of these positions, please let us know. This annual meeting is a great opportunity to help St. Andrew's move forward -- please consider how you can help make it a success!

Attention all Committee Chairs:

Now that the holidays are over, annual meeting time is fast approaching. Please submit your write up for the annual report to Jill at admin@standrewsmethuen.org no later than January 20th.

Thank You!

OUTREACH EFFORTS

Once again this holiday season members of St. Andrew's reached out to share God's love and bounty with those less fortunate. I would like to thank all who donated gifts to the Adopt-A-Family outreach. You have blessed many.



I continue to supply food bags for six neighborhood families and , therefore, am constantly

in need of food pantry items (and/or cash). We have done this ministry for many years thanks to your generous support.

May the New year bring health and blessings to you all!

Bev Brown

CHURCH BOOK CLUB

St. Andrew's Book Group meets every other month to discuss books that we think will enlighten us on our spiritual journeys...sometimes they do, and sometimes they don't, but we usually have a few laughs and enjoy the company of our fellow parishioners anyway. If you are interested in joining the Book Group just speak to Janet Ratcliffe or Krista McLeod. We can get you a copy of the book in advance through the Nevins Library. We can usually obtain large print or audio versions if you prefer them, in addition to regular hardcover or paperback books. We also welcome guests if you wish to bring a friend.

Upcoming Dates & Selections for 2013/14:

Sunday March 2/after coffee hour

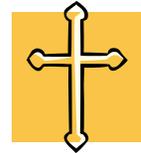
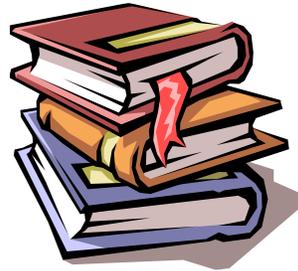
"The Gift of Rest" by Joseph Leiberan (non-fiction)

Wednesday May 14/6:30pm

"Song of the Magdalene" by Donna Jo Napoli (fiction)

Wednesday June 11/6:30pm

"Nickel & Dimed" by Barbara Ehrenreich (non-fiction)



Pastoral Care and Prayer List

Please notify the church office if you or someone in your family is ill or hospitalized.

In addition to keeping you in our prayers, our Pastoral Care team would like to send one of its members to visit you and bring communion. We refresh the prayer list quarterly.

Please contact the office

978-689-0463 or

admin@standrewsmethuen.org if you wish keep someone on the list or add someone new.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- January 2 - Christy Lee
- January 12 - Derek Haidaczuk
Kristofer Wunderlich
- January 14 - Alexis Wizboski
- January 16 - Gary Hudson
- January 17 - Pauline Crosbie
- January 22 - Curtis Robarge
- January 23 - Tom Durant



- February 1 - Huib Walta
- February 4 - Maureen Maccaro
- February 5 - Gail Ratcliffe
- February 6 - Brenda McKenney
- February 7 - Kyleigh Cooley
Robert Pauley
- February 14 - Evelyn Ratcliffe
- February 16 - Dorothy Archambault
Mally, Clive & Lars Falk
- February 18 - Nicholas Wunderlich
- February 19 - Krista McLeod
Peter Kwakye, Sr.

BAPTISMS



Please help welcome the newly baptized and her family to St. Andrew's:

- Ariella Lorraine Egan

Baptized on December 29th

VESTRY OPENINGS

February 2nd is the date for the annual meeting. Elections for parish leadership positions, including Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Clerk and two Vestry seats, will take place at that time. Please speak to Janet R. or Rev. Joe if you would like to hear

more about any of these positions. If you have never taken a turn in one of our leadership positions, or if it's been a while since you last served, please consider stepping forward. We would welcome your fresh perspective, as well as some new energy.

SENIOR WARDEN JOB DESCRIPTION

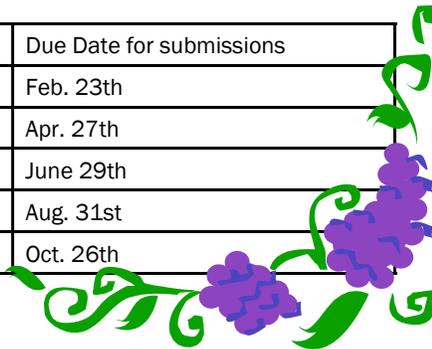
The upcoming election will mark the 6th and final time I am eligible to run for the position of Senior Warden. As such, it is critical that we start thinking about and planning for my successor. Technically speaking, the primary role of the senior warden is to serve as the lay partner of the rector in articulating the mission and vision of the parish, managing its day-to-day operations, identifying and nurturing leaders, and empowering members of the congregation to live out the Gospel in their daily lives. The role requires an open, honest and trusting relationship between warden and rector. In the absence of the rector, the senior warden presides over meetings of the parish and Vestry. Now, you're probably thinking that all sounds very important and time consuming. The truth of the matter is, being an action-oriented person, I've often wondered (and even asked Joe from time to time) exactly what it is I am supposed to be doing. Practically speaking, I meet with Joe (usually on a weekly basis but that's just because it happens to work with my schedule), oversee the operation of the office, sit in on personnel matters such as the recent hirings of a bookkeeper and secretary, and prepare for and coordinate Vestry meetings (the rector runs the actual meetings). There are a couple of other projects that I've been involved in over the years, not because they fall under the aegis of the senior warden but because they've been of personal interest to me. Those include things like applying for grants from the Diocese and Festival of Trees, overseeing the exterior restoration of the church, annual stewardship appeal, fundraising, liaison to our rental property manager and Grapevine production. The position of senior warden is an opportunity to make a difference in the life of this parish. Please consider this opportunity and know that I am available to offer "coaching" to anyone who might be interested in the job but doubts whether they'll know what to do.

(submitted by Janet Ratcliffe)

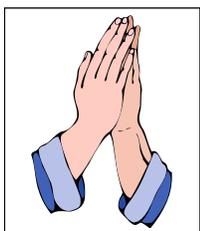
GRAPEVINE SCHEDULE FOR 2014

In an attempt to get the Grapevine publication out in a timely manner, we will use the following schedule. If you have relevant information to share, please send it to the office by the due date listed. Unfortunately, materials that are received after the due date may not make it into the publication—so try to think ahead. Thanks!

<u>Issue</u>	Due Date for submissions
Mar/Apr 2014	Feb. 23th
May/June 2014	Apr. 27th
July/Aug 2014	June 29th
Sept/Oct 2014	Aug. 31st
Nov/Dec 2014	Oct. 26th



PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF THE EPIPHANY



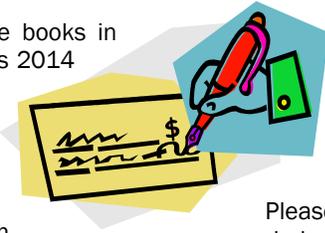
Gentle God, the tinsel falls, the year turns, the carols fade. The blessing of Bethlehem that touched all the gray in our lives with star-silver is past. In this turning season of long cold nights, we ask God's presence beyond our holidays into the wintering times of our

lives, so that we can begin to grow and become strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God.

Amen

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

I have been reviewing the books in preparation for the vestry's 2014 budget work. Our pledge income for 2013 is severely down from what was pledged. If you are behind on your pledge payments and can catch your pledge up please do so. We are going into our costly months with heating fuel payments, snowplowing and increase in electricity usage and need your donations to cover these additional costs.



St. Andrew's budget is based on the pledge cards received for that year. We cannot make a budget if we do not know what income will be coming in.

Please, if you have not done so, send in your pledge card for 2014 so that the vestry can create a budget that is realistic.

Sincerely,
Valerie Carey

I LOVE MY CHURCH

THE REV. DAVID MEGINNISS
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

I passed a sign recently that said, "I love my church. You will, too." What a great thought—not the sign, but the idea.

I love my church, too! I love the beautiful ritual, some of which is based on worship practices that existed even before Jesus was born. I love the music because I get to hear beautiful music made by voices and pipes unfiltered by anything artificial. I love the children, bursting with energy, joy, and curiosity. I love the creativity and dedication of the staff and our volunteers. I love the beauty and functionality of the church architecture. I love the generosity and compassion our folks show to each other and to the outside world. I love our sense of tradition which honors our heritage without hampering our willingness to try new things. I love that we can feel and experience the presence of God.

I think others would love our church, too, if we gave them half a chance, but we don't. Oh, I know we're easy to find, and we try to welcome the people who do come in. But what do we do to get them here in the first place? It's intimidating to walk into an unfamiliar church on your own, especially if it's a liturgical church like ours and you to come from a non-liturgical tradition. Most American Protestant churches are not like ours, and that makes us strange, whether we realize it or not. Like a lot of fine things, we are an acquired taste! Most folks are not comfortable just wandering in.

Unless we reach out and invite someone, we're probably keeping them from coming. I don't mean we need to be "in your face" with someone about coming to church; that can make us sound pushy judgmental. We easily share enthusiasm for a favorite new restaurant, a movie, or even a new phone app. People get passionate about their favorite barbecue place. So, let's tell people, "I love my church, and I think you will, too." In fact, let's say, "I would love for you to come to church with me."

The Alban Institute says the number one reason people come to a particular church is because one of the members—not the clergy, but a lay member—invited them, and it's number one by a ridiculously high margin. Signs in the yard, decals on the car, T-shirts, web pages, newspaper ads, even pithy and clever sayings on church signs—none of these are as effective as a simple invitation.

Jesus gives the great commission: "Go therefore and make disciples..." In our baptismal covenant, we promise to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ." In other words, we're supposed to be engaged in evangelism. We can get all complicated about this—going on mission trips, knocking on doors, handing out pamphlets, preaching in bus stations—or we can do what we're already good at: we can use our gift of hospitality to invite our friends to come enjoy something we enjoy. I believe there are a lot of people out there who would love our church just as much as we do, if we gave them a chance.

From The Anglican Digest, winter A.D. 2013

DID YOU KNOW...

That it's possible to make electronic donations to Saint Andrew's? It's as easy as using the bill pay feature that most banks now offer free of charge to their checking account customers. You simply set up Saint Andrew's as a payee with our name and address and then schedule payments in the amounts and at the times you desire. Be sure to direct the payment to the attention of our pledge recorder and include your envelope number in the account number field.

If you have any questions, please speak with Jim Beagan or Janet Ratcliffe.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to those who have signed up to bring one item from the list every week when you come to church. **Please sign up in the parlor, and participate in this ministry – it is very important to those in need.**



Each week we give the following to each of six families:
tuna, cereal, pasta, pasta

sauce, green veggies, yellow veggies, soup, peanut butter and jelly.

In addition, we purchase milk and bread and occasional toiletries, so a monetary donation is also helpful.

Thank you for your continued help!

Bev Brown

TO YOU WHO BRING SMALL CHILDREN TO CHURCH

(taken from veritasvenator.com)

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you – you mothers and/or fathers – to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman who often fills alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children

brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes – if but for a moment – her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you – a young family – in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You

give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

Then there's everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn't. When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matt. 19.13-15), but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is *paidon*. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word *brephos*; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also" (Luke 18.15-17). They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.

Bring your children to church. ***If you don't hear crying, the church is dying.*** As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.



Liam Robinson
& Joshua Kwakye

TOGETHER NOW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Huge thanks to Craig Seaman, our organist, for his wonderful explanation about how our Tracker organ works, and the kinds of repairs and restoration that we have completed as a result of our Capital Campaign. Craig held a special “class” after church on Sunday November 24th. We are certainly fortunate to have someone that not only knows how to play our special organ, but also knows how it works “behind the scenes! The next phase of restoration will begin after Easter.

On another “note,” I thought folks might like to know about some of the other projects in the diocese that are being funded by our (and other congregations’) contribution to the Diocesan Together Now Capital Campaign.

- Mission Tithe funds are supporting mission work in 11 countries in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, and Jerusalem, as well as in several locations within the USA.
- Three Mission Hubs have been formed, in-

cluding one right here in our own deanery! Hubs are a collaboration among three or more parishes and community organizations that come together to discern the particular needs and special resources in their communities, and then work collectively to have an impact.

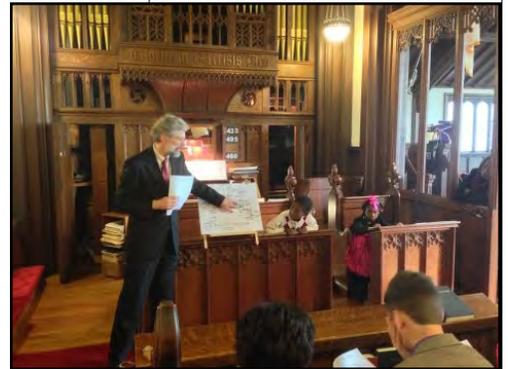
- Creation Care funds are reducing the carbon footprint of congregations throughout the diocese- including ours!
- The Barbara C. Harris Camp in NH, attended by many of our youth every summer, is receiving some renovation and other youth programs have been started and expanded.
- And the historic Cathedral Church in Boston is going through a much needed transformation, to become brighter, more adaptable and more accessible. If you are on the Boston Common at night, you’ll notice the beautiful backlit blue nautilus installed above the front of the Cathedral on Tremont

Street. It shines like a beacon of faith, hope and love. For more information, go to the update at http://www.diomass.org/webfm_send/2072.

Thank you to everyone for keeping up your pledges. Remember that our bright, beautiful, warm Parish Hall is now advertised as available for rentals on the parish website, complete with some photos. Keep us in mind if you know of people looking for a venue for 160 or fewer people.

Again, thank you to our pledgers to the Capital Campaign! We can be proud of our participation in the Campaign, and in the impact it has had, not just on St. Andrew’s, but throughout the Diocese and the world.

Submitted by Huib Walta



Craig Seaman and the organ, built by the Methuen Organ Company in 1905.



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Despite our best efforts, it has been tough, with the busy schedules of our teens, to find opportunities to get together. Over the past two months we have managed to schedule time to serve dinner at the Cor Unum meal center in South Lawrence, and to sing carols up and down the halls of the Nevins Nursing Home (which they LOVED!). It is my hope that we will be

able to put a plan together after the first of the year, so that we can refocus our energies and identify opportunities for fun, fellowship, and service over the coming months. One thing

to think about might be any interest in participating in Mission Education, including a mission trip to NY City in April? Just a possibility to consider....

I am also actively looking for someone who would like to share this responsi-

bility with me. My new job has me traveling every other month, and it has been hard to be in two places at one time! The kids are fun to be with, interesting to talk to, and definitely worth the time. Would anyone like to be a co-coordinator?

As always, a huge THANK YOU to the parents that drop off and pick up the teens from all of our events, and who volunteer as chaperones! This wouldn't work without your support. All teens, whether members of St. Andrew's or not, are welcomed to join us in our monthly schedule of social and service events. Please watch for upcoming emails as we are able to put specific dates/times to each of our plans. Parents are always cc'd on the emails to keep them in the loop. Teens (or parents) are asked to **please** indicate whether or not they will be attending, as rides have to be arranged. Adults are welcomed to help drive/chaperone!

Submitted by Laura Walta



The Christmas Carolers.
From left to right-
Laura, Victoria, Michelle, Omka,
Patty, Barbara.

MEMORIALS

Music Memorial Fund

Carol Huntley McKeon

Organ Memorial Fund

Ernestina Achiaa

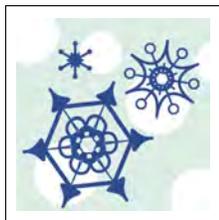


**SAINT ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

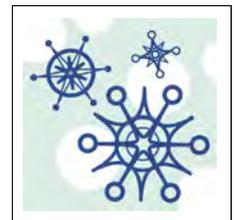
90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844

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E-mail:
admin@StAndrewsMethuen.org

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS



Throughout the winter season, we will change the voicemail greeting on the church phone to reflect cancellations or delays in Sunday services due to weather conditions.



If you have an email address and are not currently on our email distribution list, please contact the office.

Distributing the Grapevine via email is a tremendous cost savings for us.

Thank you!



CALENDAR

- Jan. 20 Annual Report Information due
- Feb. 2 Annual Meeting
- March 2 Book Club meeting after coffee hour
- March 5 Ash Wednesday @ noon
Communities Together service at St. Andrew's

